

# PACIFIC ISLAND PINEAPPLE

## RECORD CROP OF THIS YEAR

Reports from Hawaii indicate a record pineapple crop for 1908 far in excess of any production yet recorded. Conservative estimates place the shipment, chiefly to the mainland of the United States, at more than 400,000 cases of sliced, crushed and grated Hawaiian pineapple, or about 9,600,000 cans. Six years ago, at the time of the beginning of the practical, systematic development of the pineapple industry in Hawaii, the output was barely 3000 cases.

Importers, jobbers and retailers report a steady, rapid growth in demand and the prediction in the New York market is that all of that portion which reaches that city will be disposed of in this country. Correspondence from other canned fruit markets shows a general similar condition throughout the United States. Little of the Hawaiian pineapple goes into export because, while there is a market for it abroad, the production so far is not more than adequate to supply the American demand. The industry is growing rapidly, however, and where in 1901 there were only about 40 acres in Hawaii under pineapple cultivation there are now more than 6500 acres.

A greatly improved regular weekly service of fast freight steamers from Honolulu to San Francisco and the use of the new route across the Tehuantepec isthmus, a couple of hundred miles north of the Panama isthmus, has greatly facilitated deliveries in point of time and the possibility of larger cargoes.

James Dole, president of the Hawaiian Pineapple Growers' Association, is enthusiastic not only about the record crop of Hawaiian pineapples for 1908, but also the prospects for the next few years.

"The pineapple seems to have its natural home in Hawaii," said Mr. Dole. "The progress of pineapple growing and canning industry in our part of the globe is one of the most remarkable in commercial history. Seven years ago what few pineapples were grown in Hawaii were grown under the native system which really wasn't any system at all. At about that time American money, brains and scientific agricultural experience were injected into the pineapple business, with the result that today the Hawaiian pineapple is not only as well known as any of the fruit from longer established producing centers, but it ranks highest in quality and flavor."

process of canning the Ha-

waiian pineapple is purely mechanical. After they are picked and delivered to the canning factories no man's hand touches the fruit, and even those who have touched them up to this point wear rubber gloves. They are pared, cored, sliced, grated or crushed entirely by machinery and they are also put into the cans and sealed by machinery.

"The investigation of impurities in canned fruits had no fretful effects upon Hawaiian pineapple canners for the simple reason that there is nothing put into the cans with the pineapple but the purest of granulated sugar. It is unnecessary for us to use any acids in the canning process, either for the preservation of the fruit or to help in an artificial ripening process. The reason of this is that we allow our fruit to ripen absolutely before picking. This system imparts to the Hawaiian pineapple a sweetness and delicacy of flavor that it is impossible to get by any process in fruit that is picked green or even partially green. The starch in the pineapple becomes sugar in the ripening process but when the fruit is not permitted to ripen on the plant no process yet discovered will turn that starch into sugar.

"Reports received from growers in Hawaii and from agents in the canned fruit markets of the country indicate a production and demand which cannot but be pleasing to us."

### ONION GROWING IN OREGON

By A. J. FANNO, President Federated Onion Growers Assn.

A careful examination of the onion crop of the present season shows it to be about one-third less than the full crop of 1906. Killing frosts during September reduced the remainder to about one-half the usual amount available at this time of the year. For this reason growers are asking top prices. It was impossible to make a satisfactory estimate of the crop at Sherwood, the largest onion growing section, as at the time of my visit the plants were backward and green and would require two or three weeks of favorable weather to develop them. The frost was particularly destructive at that place, as the onions were still out in the field and took the alternate frost and sunshine, and the damage evidently was very great.

The onion growers of California have no organization, and are using

the old plan of every man for himself and no systematic effort is made by them to ascertain the size and condition of the onion crop in that state. The only estimates made are by buyers and speculators and are inclined to be bearish. According to the most reliable reports obtainable, the crop of early onions grown in California the past season is very large and holders are in haste to get rid of them at any price, as they have been grown by irrigation and will soon become unfit for market if not consumed. They are being offered at 50 and 60 cents per cental, which is a loss to the growers, and any one buying a car will find that the latter part of the carload will be a loss to him before he can dispose of them.

Regarding the subject of irrigating onions: The onions grown in the Willamette valley, which will practically keep from one year to the other, are produced almost entirely without irrigation and the really good crops are produced in seasons when the showers continue during the growing season and no irrigation is needed. Irrigation means poor and watery onions, and when employed at all should be done by means of under drains and not by permitting the water to flow over the surface of the ground. The reason is apparent—summer showers are accompanied by cool and cloudy weather which prevents the forced and unnatural growth incidental to irrigation. Five months are required for the onions to come to maturity from the time of the planting of the seed, and any process which shortens this period of growth will impair the keeping quality. What the onion growers of Western Oregon need is a keeper, as early in the season there is always an abundance of the other sorts, and he must depend on cultivation and not on irrigation. By adopting a few of the principles of the dry farming methods a good crop can be grown any season without water. To get best results the hoeing of the field should continue at intervals of ten days or two weeks up to the last two weeks of the growing season.

### ALFALFA IN OREGON.

There is a good deal of milk in the ground that was not spilled and cried over, but it is there nevertheless. At certain seasons of the year the Thousand-Headed kale pulls the milk out of Mother Earth and the cow pulls it out of the kale and puts it in the bucket. There is a period, however, during the summer when the cows go hungry and the milk languishes in the ground because there is no green thing to pull it out and coax the cow to fill the milk bucket.

Western Oregon is one of the best dairy sections of the Union. With

mild open winters in which kale flourishes and furnishes green succulent food, the dairy business thrives all the year around with the exception of a short period during the summer. During this period the land is out of commission, the cows barely subsist on the pasture fields and there is no profit to the farmer. Forty-cent butter and a scarcity of good fresh milk is the evidence of a lack of green food.

What is needed in the valley is a forage crop that will utilize the soil and furnish green food and pasture during the dry season. Will alfalfa fill the bill? If alfalfa could be raised extensively and successfully it would change the face of nature and add immensely to the value of the farms in the Willamette valley. It would increase the dairy products and the poultry products; it would cheapen the production of pork and beef and mutton. A good summer forage crop is the one thing needed.

Alfalfa has been grown for two thousand years in the Mediterranean region. It has been grown successfully in arid America for half a century. A gentleman traveling over what was then regarded as a land unfit for settlement in Western Nebraska by reason of its aridity, discovered a thrifty green alfalfa plant growing where no other green thing could be found for miles around. That was a demonstration that satisfied the gentleman and he purchased a large tract of land for a trifle. On the same land he has since fed fifty thousand sheep in one season on alfalfa. Alfalfa goes down into the depths of the soil for moisture and through wireless communication with the atmosphere brings down from above food which feeds the plant and enriches the soil.

Since 1891 the acreage of alfalfa in Kansas has increased from 34,388 to 615,000 in 1906. A recent bulletin from that state says of alfalfa: "The steer feeders and mutton feeders of Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska would be lost without it."

At the Kansas station it is stated: "A gain of 800 pounds of pork was made from a ton of alfalfa, and a little less than that amount of gain was made from an acre of alfalfa." Again: "We found that 100 pounds of alfalfa hay saved 96 pounds of corn." Figuring on the basis of these experiments it is stated that "with green alfalfa producing ten tons per acre (20,000 pounds) it would produce 2000 pounds of pork, which, at 4 cents per pound, would be worth \$80 per acre."

Director Burkett of the Kansas station says: "By promoting the successful production of alfalfa the station has not only extended the dominion of an imperial forage crop, but in so doing has discharged its own entire expense, and in addition has added millions of dollars to the wealth of the state."

At the Ontario Agricultural College in ten years thirty cuttings, yielding over five tons an acre, were made. An experiment showed its great soil enriching qualities. Wheat grown after alfalfa yielded 61.5 bushels per acre and after timothy sod 42.1 bushels. In the two succeeding years the alfalfa sod produced 30.2 bushels of barley and 24 bushels of corn, while the timothy sod produced 19.7 bushels of barley and 17.9 bushels of corn. The three crops on the alfalfa sod were worth about \$90, while those on the timothy sod were worth about \$58.

At the Oregon Agricultural College alfalfa has been growing successfully for several years, and tests are being made by the agronomists with different varieties to determine which will best suit the conditions in this state. The station men are glad at all times to answer questions in regard to its cultivation.

A few miles from Corvallis Mr. W. H. Hamlin cut this year 200 tons of alfalfa hay. It yielded about two and a half tons to the acre in two cuttings. Before seeding to alfalfa the land had been "cropped out." In fourteen years fourteen grain crops had been taken from the land, and Mr. Hamlin explains that on richer land the yield is much heavier. He further explains that the oldest stand yields the best, showing that it takes several years on certain classes of soil for the alfalfa to make a good growth.

It looks as though an alfalfa campaign would be worth millions to this state.—James Dryden.

### CAMPAIGN FOR BUILDINGS IN THE COMING SEASON

The city of Salem for the past year as shown by the record published elsewhere in this paper, has made a remarkable growth, and the prospect for the coming year is even better. There will be a larger expenditure for street improvements, in the way of various kinds of paving. There will be hundreds of new houses and thousands of feet of sidewalks. In the residence districts walks are mostly built of wood owing to cheap lumber. In the business district and downtown residence streets concrete walks are put in. At a recent meeting of the Board of Trade the following action was taken:

#### Resolutions Adopted.

"Whereas, the unprecedented emigration to Oregon's Capital City during the past year resulted in the building of over three hundred new houses, and the conceded fact that 1909 will require the building of from five to eight hundred more new dwellings to accommodate the incoming people, and

"Whereas, The large amount of street improvements made during the past year, and the much larger

amount contemplated for the coming year, which is necessary to date the natural growth of the city and facilitate the increased population, it is the duty of the city council to take immediate steps to secure the building of the necessary streets to and from all parts of the city for the comfort and safety.

Praise for Oregon. J. E. Debevoise, editor of the American Lumberman, who has bestowed much praise on Douglas fir, is now writing to me editorially for the present issue of the Lumberman. "The Pacific Northwest," wonderful appeal to every one who has bestowed much praise on Douglas fir, is now writing to me editorially for the present issue of the Lumberman. "The Pacific Northwest," wonderful appeal to every one who has bestowed much praise on Douglas fir, is now writing to me editorially for the present issue of the Lumberman. "The Pacific Northwest," wonderful appeal to every one who has bestowed much praise on Douglas fir, is now writing to me editorially for the present issue of the Lumberman.

### BANKING HOUSE WITH STABILITY AND EXPERTISE

The Capital National Bank is one of its most stable and expert institutions. It was organized in 1885, but its head, the Hon. H. Albert, has had over twenty years of continuous experience in banking and the cashier, Joseph H. Albert, has had over twenty years of continuous connection with the bank. The bank has just been reorganized as its interior with beautiful and mahogany finish is of about \$4000. The depositors' bank aggregate over half a million and it is conducted on moderate and liberal policies.

# THE OREGON ELECTRIC RAILWAY

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## Active Factor In Developing the Willamette Valley

This Company invites the earnest attention of the Home Builder, the Business Man, the Farmer, the Manufacturer, and the Merchant to the great development and progress that has taken place, in the Garden Spot of the Willamette Valley, along its Salem-Portland line, since the opening of this line less than a year ago.

New communities have sprung up, where none were in evidence a year ago; old communities have become instilled with new life; owners of single or combined lots of large acreage are beginning to realize the great pecuniary advantage to themselves, and the impetus toward development of the valley, occasioned by disposing of their holdings in small tracts.

It would be difficult to define a limit to the extent of development that will take place along this line during the coming year, its is self-evident that, with the known productive possibilities of the soil as a basis, its reasonable cost per acre considering fertility, frequent and cheap transportation and proximity to city and market, future development will be stimulated to a degree that will surely result in greatly increased population, greater production, and consequent full measure of prosperity for this justly named and famed "Garden Spot of the Willamette Valley."

The Home Builder and the Business man may find here ideal locations and conditions for a home away from the city, yet within easy distance for Business, Social or Educational inclinations.

The Farmer may find here soil capable of producing any variety and quantity of Fruit, Cereal or Vegetable, active markets almost at the door, transportation that will reach these markets quickly and cheaply, and Social and Educational advantages of the best, either locally or in the nearby city.

The Manufacturer and Merchant may find here in the great progress of development opportunities without number for profitable financial returns from an investment in manufacturing plants, general stores and warehouses.

The Traffic Manager solicits correspondence or a personal interview from interested persons.

PORTLAND,

GEO. F. NEVINS,  
Traffic Manager

OREGON